

THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDINANCE IS DECEMBER 17, 2003

ORDINANCE NO. 03-21-344

**Re: Revisions to Regulations Governing Fire Alarm
Registrations and Penalties for False Alarms**

RECITALS

Pursuant to Article 25, Section 221A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board of County Commissioners is authorized to adopt regulations for registering alarm system contractors and alarm system users in Frederick County, as well as provide penalties for failure to register and for false alarms.

Ordinance No. 00-26-268 was considered by the Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing held on June 20, 2000, following due notice and advertisement, and was adopted August 1, 2000. Ordinance No. 01-14-288, amending the regulations, was adopted on June 26, 2001.

Additional revisions became necessary. The revisions change the definition of false alarm, remove the requirement for providing a driver's license or social security number on a residential permit registration form, add a sanction for companies that fail to apply for a business permit, and change certain terminology used in the regulations.

The revisions to the Ordinance were considered by the Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing held on December 16, 2003, following due notice and advertisement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND, that: the revisions to the Frederick County Alarm System Registration Regulations are hereby adopted as shown on the Attached Exhibit A, which is incorporated herein by reference.

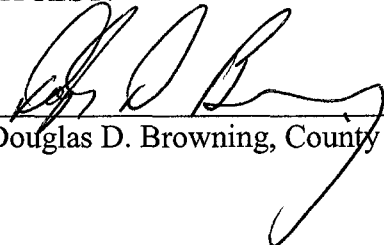
CAPITALS AND/OR UNDERLINING INDICATE ENTIRELY NEW MATTER ADDED TO
EXISTING ORDINANCE.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing Ordinance.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED that this Ordinance shall take effect on December 17, 2003.

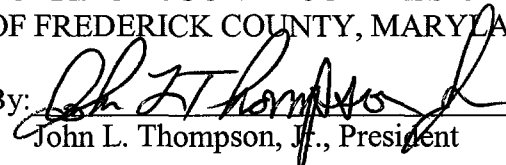
The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Ordinance was approved and adopted on the 16th day of December, 2003.

ATTEST:



Douglas D. Browning, County Manager

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

By: 

John L. Thompson, Jr., President

LBT

**Frederick County
Sheriff's Office**

**Alarm System
Registration
Regulations**

Revised 12-17-03

Exhibit A

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION

1-24-1	Purpose and Intent.....	1
1-24-2	Definitions.....	1
1-24-3	Alarm Company Registration	4
1-24-4	Alarm User Registration	7
1-24-5	Alarm Systems in Apartment Complexes Contracted for by Individual Tenant	11
1-24-6	Alarm Systems in Apartment Complexes Furnished by the Apartment Complex as an Amenity	11
1-24-7	Alarm System Installation Standards	12
1-24-8	Waived Response Fine.....	12
1-24- 9	Exemptions	13
1-24-10	System Inspection for Recurring False Alarms.....	13
1-24-11	Assumed False Alarms	14
1-24-12	Denied Response for Unpaid Fines.....	14
1-24-13	Revocation, Suspension or Loss of Alarm Permit or Business Permit.....	15
1-24-14	False Alarm Response Fines	16
1-24-15	Reinstatement of Alarm Registration.....	18
1-24-16	Appeal of False Alarm Fines	18
1-24-17	False Alarm Prevention Class	19
1-24-18	Reports	20
1-24-19	Violations	20
1-24-20	Effective Dates	20

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

1-24-1: Purpose and Intent

- A) The purpose of this set of regulations is to encourage alarm users and alarm companies to maintain the operational reliability and proper use of alarm systems, and to reduce or eliminate false alarm dispatch requests.
- B) This set of regulations governs systems intended to summons police response. These regulations also establish requirements for permits, establish fees, provide for violation penalties, establish a system of administration, and set conditions for suspension or loss of permits.

1-24-2: Definitions

In this section, the following words have the meanings indicated:

- A) **Alarm Administrator** - The individual designated by the Frederick County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) to administer, control, review alarm applications, alarm responses, and appeals as outlined in Section 1-24-13.
- B) **Alarm System Contractor (Company)**
 - 1. A company licensed by the State of Maryland to sell, lease, install, maintain, monitor, alter, or service alarm systems; or
 - 2. An agency that furnishes the services of a person engaged to install, maintain, monitor, alter, or service alarm systems.
- C) **Alarm User** -
 - 1. A person in control of an alarm system within, on, or around any building, structure, facility, or site.
 - 2. An alarm user includes the owner or lessee of an alarm system; the occupant of any dwelling unit with an alarm system; each tenant that uses an alarm system in a multi-tenant building.

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

- D) **Alarm System** - Any mechanical or electrical equipment arranged to signal an unauthorized entry or other illegal activity. Alarm system includes devices activated automatically, such as burglar alarms, and devices activated manually, such as hold-up alarms. Alarm system does not include telephone lines maintained and operated by public utilities under the regulation of the Public Service Commission over which such signals might be transmitted or alarm systems installed in motor vehicles, boats, or aircraft. Alarm system does not include fire alarms.
- E) **Alarm Signal** - The activation of an alarm system alarm site.
- F) **Alarm Site** - A single premises or location served by an alarm system.
- G) **Control Panel** - The control processing unit designed to manage and control an alarm system.
- H) **Digital Dialer** - A device that transmits digital signals from an alarm system to a monitoring center through the telephone network.
- I) **Duress Alarm** - A silent alarm signal generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a crisis situation requiring police response.
- J) **Hold-Up, Robbery or Panic Alarm** - A device designed for the detection of a robbery, hold-up or the commission of an unlawful act within the premises protected by the alarm system and which may be intentionally activated by a person, generates an inaudible signal to the monitoring station, and may or may not generate an audible sound at the premises.
- K) **Audible Alarm** - A device designed for the detection of an unauthorized entry on a premises and which when activated generates an audible sound on the premises.
- L) **Alarm Company Business Permit** - A permit issued by the County of Frederick, Maryland to operate as an alarm business in Frederick County.
- M) **Alarm Permit Registration** - A permit issued by the Alarm Administrator or

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

designee to an individual, corporation, partnership, association, organization or similar entity to operate an alarm system at an alarm site.

- N) **Touchpad** - A device that allows control of an alarm system by the manual entering of a coded sequence of numbers or letters.
- O) **Person** - An individual, corporation, partnership, association, organization or similar entity.
- P) **Act of God** - An unusual, extraordinary, sudden and/or unexpected manifestation of the forces of nature which cannot be prevented by reasonable human care, skill or foresight.
- Q) **Conversion** - The transaction or process by which one alarm company begins maintaining an alarm system previously maintained by another.
- R) **Takeover** - The transaction or process by which an alarm user takes over control of an existing alarm system which was originally controlled by another.
- S) **False Alarm** - Any request for the immediate assistance of a law enforcement agency, regardless of cause, that is not in response to an actual emergency situation and/or perceived or actual criminal activity.
 - 1. False Alarms include:
 - a. Negligently or accidentally activated signals.
 - b. Signals that are the result of faulty, malfunctioning or improperly installed or maintained equipment.
 - c. Signals that are purposely activated to summons a law enforcement agency in a non-emergency situation.
 - 2. False Alarms do not include:
 - a. Signals activated by unusually severe weather conditions or other causes beyond the control of the alarm user or alarm system

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

contractor, to include an act of God, blizzards, earthquakes, high intensity wind.

- b. Signals that are activated for testing purposes when a law enforcement agency has been given advance notice of such testing or activation caused by a law enforcement agency.
- c. An alarm system that is activated a second time within a 12-hour period when the premises are unoccupied will not be deemed a false alarm if :
 - 1. Access to the building is provided to a law enforcement officer; and
 - 2. An alarm system representative responds.
- d. If access to the building is not provided to the alarm system representative, and the representative does not respond to an alarm system that is activated a second time within 12 hours when the premises are unoccupied, each subsequent alarm will be counted as a false alarm.

1-24-3: Alarm Company Registration

- A) Any person engaging in an alarm business in Frederick County, Maryland must apply to the Alarm Administrator of Frederick County or the designee specified on the application form for a business permit to operate as an alarm company.
 - 1. Such application must be signed by:
 - a.. The owner of the company for a sole proprietorship, or
 - b. One partner for a partnership, or
 - c. A corporate officer for a corporation.
 - 2. Any false statement of a material fact made by an applicant for the purpose of obtaining a business permit will be sufficient cause for refusal to issue a business permit.

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

- B) All applications must be approved by the Alarm Administrator or designee.
- C) The business permit application must include, but is not limited to:
 - 1. The name, address, facsimile number, telephone number, business entity (Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, or Corporation).
 - 2. The name, address, and telephone number of the person responsible for the operation of the Alarm Company in Frederick County and responsible for payment of fees assessed under this article.
 - 3. Background criminal history information - The owner, partner or corporate officer of an alarm company must conduct a criminal history background check on all employees of the alarm company involved in the sale, installation, monitoring, or maintenance of an alarm system. The background check must cover the past seven (7) years.
 - 4. Complete lists of associated (contracted) alarm companies including name and the alarm business permit number, that may alter, install, maintain, monitor, repair, replace, sell at retail, service, or respond to an alarm system in Frederick County.
 - 5. An alarm company that is incorporated in a State other than Maryland must include on the alarm business permit application form the name, address and telephone number of the Resident Agent in Maryland.
- D) Information contained in alarm registration applications will be held in confidence by all employees or representatives of Frederick County.
- E) Alarm Company Business Permit Fee:
 - 1. Business permit applications must be accompanied by an annual, non-refundable processing fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), which will be due and payable each year on the anniversary date of the issuance of the alarm business permit.
 - 2. If the alarm company has been revoked or suspended, a reinstatement fee

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) plus any other administrative fees must accompany a reinstatement application.

3. An applicant cannot conduct business in Frederick County until the alarm business permit is approved.
4. An applicant must give written notice of any changes to the information contained in the application to the Alarm Administrator or designee within ten (10) calendar days of the change.
5. A permitted alarm company must not enter into a contract regarding their business in Frederick County with a non-permitted alarm company.

F) Alarm Companies Responsibilities for Registration of Alarm Users

An alarm company, as defined in Section 2, must meet the following requirements:

1. An alarm company must ensure that the alarm user has registered the alarm system with the Frederick County Alarm Administrator or designee before the alarm system is activated or placed into service.
2. An alarm company must annually provide the Alarm Administrator or designee a list containing the name, address, telephone number and registration number of all of their current alarm users in Frederick County.
3. An alarm company must notify the Alarm Administrator of any alarm user who has a service contract with, or is monitored or maintained by the alarm company, or who has canceled or otherwise terminated their alarm services with the alarm company.
4. An alarm company must determine if the alarm site is either residential or non-residential and ensure that the alarm user is given the proper registration form.
5. An alarm company must ensure that a separate registration form is provided to each alarm user. One registration form must be provided for each separate alarm site. Site is defined as a separate address, building,

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

structure or premises. In multi-tenant office buildings, one registration form and must be provided for each tenant using an alarm system.

6. The alarm company must provide alarm users with a set of written operating instructions for the alarm system, including written guidelines on how to avoid false alarms.
7. The alarm company must provide training to the alarm user in the proper use of the alarm system.
8. An alarm company must inform an alarm user that an alarm permit cannot be transferred to another person. The alarm company must also inform the alarm user to notify the alarm administrator of any change that alters any information listed on the permit registration within five (5) business days.

- G) An alarm company or retail establishment that only sells an alarm system or equipment at retail to an alarm user must provide the purchaser the proper alarm user permit registration information, including but not limited to, a summary of the Frederick County Alarm Regulations, the permit registration form and fee information that is to be submitted to the Alarm Administrator or designee upon the sale of an alarm system. This section includes audible alarms purchased at retail.

1-24-4: Alarm User Registration

- A) Every alarm user must register their alarm system with Frederick County by completing and submitting the permit registration form and paying the alarm permit registration fee established by these regulations prior to the activation of an alarm system as defined in Section 1-24-2.

Any false statement of a material fact made by an applicant for the purpose of obtaining an alarm permit will be sufficient cause for refusal to issue a permit.

- B) Registration Form

The permit registration form for the alarm user must contain, but is not limited to, the following information:

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

1. Residential

- a. Registration number, name, address, telephone number of the alarm user for the alarm site;
- b. Dangerous or special conditions information at the alarm site;
- c. Type of alarm system: burglary, robbery, panic, duress, medical alert, etc.;
- d. Name and address, and telephone numbers of two (2) persons who are able to and have agreed to:
 - 1. Receive notification of an alarm activation at anytime,
 - 2. Respond to the alarm site within one (1) hour, and
 - 3. Grant access to the alarm site and deactivate the alarm system if such becomes necessary.
- e. The Alarm Administrator may waive, under extraordinary circumstances, the requirement to have two (2) contact persons listed on a residential registration form;

2. Non-Residential

- a. Registration Number;
- b. Non-residential alarm user's name and trade name, if different;
- c. A street address where the alarm system is located, including room or suite number;
- d. Telephone number at the alarmed site;
- e. Type of business or activity conducted at the alarm site;
- f. Type of alarm system: burglary, robbery, duress, panic, etc.;
- g. Dangerous or special conditions information at the site;

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

- h. Parent company name, address and telephone number;
- i. Name and telephone number of person(s) responsible for the alarm system at the alarm site; and
- j. Name and telephone numbers of three (3) persons who are able to and have agreed to:
 - 1. Receive notification of an alarm activation at anytime,
 - 2. Respond to the alarm site within one (1) hour, and
 - 3. Grant access to the alarm site and deactivate the alarm system if such becomes necessary.
- 3. Name, address, telephone number, and business permit number(s) of the alarm company that installed and/or monitors the alarm system, if applicable.
- 4. A statement as to whether the alarm user has ever previously registered an alarm system or was ever issued a permit in Frederick County.
- 5. Any false statement of a material fact made by an applicant for the purpose of obtaining an alarm permit will be sufficient cause for refusal to issue a permit.
- 6. The alarm user permit registration form must contain a synopsis of this set of Frederick County regulations.
- 7. The alarm user permit registration is valid for a period of one (1) year from the date of issuance.
- C) Alarm users cannot transfer alarm permits to another person. The alarm user must notify the Alarm Administrator of any change that alters any information listed on the permit registration within five (5) business days.
- D) Alarm User Registration Fee

The registration fee for residential and non-residential alarm users is thirty dollars

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

(\$30.00) annually.

- E) An alarm user that contracts with an alarm company, as defined in Section 1-24-2, to purchase an alarm system or to have an alarm system monitored must submit the permit registration form along with the alarm permit registration fee to the Alarm Administrator prior to the activation of the alarm system.
- F) When a person or business listed on the permit registration or listed on an amendment to the registration is unable or unwilling to perform the required duties, the registrant must file with the alarm company, within seventy-two (72) hours, an amendment to the registration listing a person or company that is able and willing to perform those duties.
- G) Each permit registration will remain in effect until the registrant relinquishes control of the alarm site or the registration is suspended, revoked or expires.
- H) All registered alarm users must keep a copy of the alarm permit registration form and installation certificate at the alarm site and must produce such registration information for inspection upon reasonable request by a Frederick County Law Enforcement Officer (authorized to enforce these regulations) and/or Alarm Administrator.
- I) At least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the expiration of an alarm permit registration, the Alarm Administrator will notify an alarm user of the expiration date of the alarm system permit registration and forward renewal paper work.
- J) Prior to the alarm permit registration annual expiration date, the alarm user will submit renewal paper work along with the thirty dollar (\$30.00) registration fee to the Alarm Administrator to renew the alarm system permit.
- K) All information submitted to a third party administrator in compliance with this regulation must be held in strict confidence and must not be disclosed without approval of the Alarm Administrator. Any violation of confidentiality requirements is a violation of this regulation and is subject to a civil penalty of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00).
- L) Registration of an alarm system is not intended to, nor will it, create a contract, duty or obligation, either expressed or implied, of response. Any and all liability

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

and consequential damage resulting from the failure to respond to a notification is hereby disclaimed and governmental immunity as provided by law is retained. By registering an alarm system, the alarm user acknowledges that police response may be based on factors such as:

1. Availability of police units
2. Priority of calls
3. Weather conditions
4. Traffic conditions
5. Emergency conditions
6. Staffing levels

**1-24-5: Alarm Systems in Apartment Complexes
Contracted for by Individual Tenant**

- A) If an alarm system installed by an individual tenant in an apartment complex unit is monitored, the tenant must provide the name of a representative of the apartment owner or property manager who can grant access to the apartment.
- B) A tenant of an apartment complex will also obtain an alarm permit registration, as outlined in Section 1-24-4, before operating or causing the operation of an alarm system in the tenant's residential unit. The annual fee for this permit registration or the renewal of this registration will be thirty dollars (\$30.00).
- C) For purposes of enforcing these regulations against an individual residential unit, the tenant is responsible for false alarm dispatches emitted from the alarm system in the tenant's residential unit.

**1-24-6: Alarm Systems in Apartment Complexes
Furnished by the Apartment Complex as an Amenity**

- A) If the owner or property manager of an apartment complex provides alarm systems in each residential unit as an amenity, then the owner or property manager of the apartment complex will obtain an alarm permit, as outlined in Section 1-24-4. The annual fee for this permit and for each renewal of this permit will be thirty dollars (\$30.00) per residential unit per year. All units, whether occupied or not, will be included in calculating the required fee.

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

- B) For purposes of assessing fines and enforcing these regulations, the alarm permit holder is responsible for payment of fines for false alarm dispatches emitted from alarm systems in residential units.

1-24-7: Alarm System Installation Standards

A) Installation

An alarm system will be installed and serviced only by an alarm contractor licensed by the State of Maryland and registered in Frederick County.

B) System Standards and Testing

A new alarm system will be included in a list published by Underwriters Laboratory or Factory Mutual, which states that the system meets appropriate designated standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specified manner.

C) System Installation

A new alarm system will be installed in accordance with National Electric Code, National Burglar Alarm Association, or Underwriters Laboratory standards.

D) Certain Dialers Prohibited

An alarm system may not utilize a digital dialer or automatic telephone dialing system which transmits signals through the telephone network to summon police.

1-24-8: Waived Response Fine

- A) A false alarm response fine may be waived if the alarm system was activated by an act of God, including violent conditions of nature; such as, blizzards, earthquakes, high intensity winds, extraordinary circumstances not reasonably subject to the control of the alarm company or alarm user. The Alarm Administrator may request a written statement/report from a permitted alarm company representative which details the reasons for the false alarm.

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

- B) If it is determined that a false alarm signal from a registered alarm was due to an event beyond the reasonable control of the alarm user, the event may not be considered a false alarm for the purpose of this regulation.
- C) If alarm signals were caused by a malfunctioning alarm system which caused two (2) or more false alarms in a twelve (12) hour period, and the alarm user and the alarm company exercised their best efforts to limit alarm signals caused by the malfunction, those false alarms will be counted as one (1) false alarm.
- D) The Alarm Administrator may waive an inspection when it is determined that a sufficient number of false alarms are not related to system malfunction or defect.
- E) The Alarm Administrator may waive response fines for signals activated during the initial 30 day period following a new installation, if the alarm user contacts the Alarm Administrator in writing, within ten (10) days of receipt of the fine notice, verifies the new installation and requests the fine be waived.

1-24-9: Exemptions

- A) Federal, state, county, or municipal government entities that own or operate an alarm site are exempt from any registration fees, fines and penalties under these regulations, but will be subject to all other provisions of the regulations.
- B) The Frederick County Board of Education and its entities are exempt from all registration fees, but are subject to all fines and penalties and all other provisions of these regulations
- C) Frederick County government may manage its own alarm systems without utilizing a certified alarm company.

1-24-10: System Inspection for Recurring False Alarms

- A) If the alarm system emits a false alarm at an alarm site within any twelve (12) month period, the Alarm Administrator may require the alarm user to have the alarm system inspected by an alarm company and submit an alarm system certification to the Alarm Administrator. If within any twelve (12) month period the alarm system emits five (5) false alarms subsequent to a certification under

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

this paragraph, the Alarm Administrator may require the alarm company to submit another alarm system certification.

- B) Within thirty (30) calendar days of the alarm certification request, as outlined above in Paragraph A of this subsection, the alarm user must have their alarm system inspected and certified by an alarm company, and the alarm certification submitted to the Alarm Administrator.
- C) An alarm system certification under this subsection will certify that the alarm system meets the requirements of this subtitle and any other applicable local, state, or national codes.
- D) Only permitted alarm companies will be permitted to conduct alarm system inspections.

1-24-11: Assumed False Alarms

- A) In the case of an assumed false alarm signal, the responding police officer will leave notice at the alarm site that the police responded to a false alarm.
- B) The Notice under this subsection will contain:
 - 1. The date and time of the police response to the false alarm signal,
 - 2. The identification number of the responding officer, and
 - 3. A request to the alarm user to ensure that the alarm system is properly operated, inspected, and serviced in order to avoid fines.

1-24-12: Denied Response for Unpaid Fines

- A) If a monitored alarm user fails to pay their false alarm response fine or fails to appeal the false alarm response fine as set forth in these regulations, the alarm user and the alarm user's alarm company or monitoring company will be advised in writing by the Alarm Administrator that the user failed to either pay their fine or appeal the false alarm. The alarm company or monitoring company must not request police dispatch on any alarm signal to the alarm user's site until the alarm user pays their outstanding fine or an appeal is granted.

Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration

- B) If an alarm user fails to pay their false alarm response fine or fails to appeal the false alarm response fine as set forth in these regulations, the Emergency Communications Center of Frederick County will be advised by the Alarm Administrator that the alarm user failed to either pay their fine or appeal the false alarm. The Emergency Communications Center will not dispatch law enforcement personnel to any alarm at the alarm user's site until the alarm user pays their outstanding fine or an appeal is granted.
- C) If an alarm user fails to register their alarm system as set forth in these regulations, the alarm user will be notified in writing by the Alarm Administrator that the alarm user must not request police dispatch on any alarm signal to the alarm user's site until the alarm system has been registered and all outstanding fines and fees have been paid.
- D) If an alarm company or monitoring company fails to apply for a Frederick County business permit to conduct business in the county, the Alarm Administrator or designee may request denied response to alarm activations requested by the unpermitted alarm company or monitoring company until such time as the alarm company or monitoring company acquires a valid business permit.

1-24-13: Revocation, Suspension or Loss of Alarm Permit or Business Permit

- A) The Alarm Administrator may refuse to grant an alarm permit registration to an alarm user or an alarm business permit to an alarm company, and may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew an alarm permit registration or business permit, if the alarm administrator finds:
 - 1. Failure of the permittee to comply with the requirements of this subtitle;
 - 2. That installation, repairs, maintenance, or other work on the alarm system does not meet the requirements of this subtitle;
 - 3. Fees required or fines imposed under this subtitle have not been paid;
 - 4. When the permittee or any of its officers, employees or agents have knowingly made any false, misleading or fraudulent statement of a material fact in any report or record required pursuant to this regulation.

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

5. A person commits an offense if he operates an alarm system during the period in which his alarm permit is suspended or revoked.
 6. Conviction of the permittee or any of its officers, employees or agents of a felony.
- B) Should an alarm business permit be suspended, revoked, or refused, the alarm company must notify, by first class mail, within five (5) calendar days, each of its alarm users that the alarm company is unable to request Frederick County to dispatch to the user's alarm for the duration of the suspension, revocation or refusal. The alarm company must also provide the Alarm Administrator or designee, by first class mail, within five (5) calendar days, a list containing the name and complete address of current registered alarm users.
- C) Any alarm company or applicant who requests a hearing to show cause why an alarm business permit should not be revoked, suspended, or the permit application should be granted or renewed must do so in writing with the Alarm Administrator within 10 calendar days of notice of the revocation, suspension or permit application denial.
- D) Any alarm company or applicant who requests a hearing to show cause why an alarm business permit should not be revoked, suspended, or the permit application should be granted or renewed must include with the written appeal a filing fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) made payable to the Treasurer of Frederick County.

1-24-14: False Alarm Response Fines

- A) If an alarm emits a false alarm signal within a calendar year, the alarm user that owns the system is subject to a fine based upon the schedules contained in this subsection.

1. Schedule of Fines for Residential User

Number of

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

<u>False Alarms</u>	<u>Action/Fine</u>
1	Warning letter mailed to the user
2	Warning letter mailed to the user
3	\$30.00 fine imposed on the user
4	\$45.00 fine imposed on the user
5	\$60.00 fine imposed on the user and alarm inspection required by a registered alarm company
6	\$75.00 fine imposed on the user
7	\$90.00 fine imposed on the user
8	\$115.00 fine imposed on the user
9	\$130.00 fine imposed on user
10	\$150.00 fine imposed on the user and alarm inspection required by a registered alarm company
11	\$150.00 fine imposed on the user
12	\$150.00 fine imposed on the user
13	\$150.00 fine imposed on the user
14	\$150.00 fine imposed on the user
15+	\$150.00 fine imposed on the user and alarm inspection required by a registered alarm company

2. Schedule of Fines for Non-Residential User

<u>Number of False Alarms</u>	<u>Action/Fine</u>
1	Warning letter mailed to the user
2	Warning letter mailed to the user
3	\$50.00 fine imposed on the user
4	\$75.00 fine imposed on the user
5	\$100.00 fine imposed on the user and alarm inspection required by a registered alarm company
6	\$125.00 fine imposed on the user
7	\$150.00 fine imposed on the user
8	\$175.00 fine imposed on the user
9	\$200.00 fine imposed on the user
10	\$225.00 fine imposed on the user and alarm inspection required by a registered alarm company

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

11	\$250.00 fine imposed on the user
12	\$275.00 fine imposed on the user
13	\$300.00 fine imposed on the user
14	\$300.00 fine imposed on the user
15+	\$300.00 fine imposed on the user and alarm inspection required by a registered alarm company

B) Fines for Unregistered Alarms

1. A person who maintains or operates an unregistered alarm system is subject to a fine of \$50.00 for each police response to an alarm site. The Alarm Administrator may waive the fine for an unregistered system if the alarm user registers the system within 15 calendar days after the initial violation.
2. If an alarm company requests a police response to an unregistered alarm site, the alarm company is subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each false alarm signal for which it requests police response.

C) All monies retrieved as a result of fines and fees, will be deposited into the General Fund and may be used to fund related activities.

1-24-15: Reinstatement of Alarm Registration

- A) A person whose alarm registration has been suspended or revoked may be issued a new registration if the person:**
1. Submits an application and pays a filing fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00);
 2. Satisfies all outstanding citations and fines; and
 3. Submits a certification from an alarm company stating that the alarm system complies with the requirements of this subtitle.

1-24-16: Appeal of False Alarm Fine

- A). A person who is fined pursuant to these Regulations may file an appeal in writing,**

**Frederick County Sheriff's Office
Alarm System Registration**

giving detailed information for the request, to the Alarm Administrator, within 14 days of issuance of the notice of fine. A filing fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00), made payable to the Treasurer of Frederick County must be included.

- B) Unless the Alarm Administrator dismisses the fine pursuant to Section 1-24-8 of these Regulations, the person must, within 10 days after receiving written notification from the Alarm Administrator denying the appeal, pay the fine.
- C) If the fine is not paid within the time period described above, a municipal citation shall be issued.
- D) In a proceeding before the District Court, the violation shall be prosecuted in the same manner and to the same extent as set forth in Article 23A, Section 3(B)(8) through (15) of the Maryland Code. However, the County Attorney is hereby authorized to prosecute all citations issued under these Regulations.
- E) A person found by the District Court to have committed a violation of these Regulations shall be liable for the costs of the proceeding in the District Court.

1-24-17: False Alarm Prevention Class

- A) The Alarm Administrator and the Frederick County Sheriff's Office may provide a two (2) hour educational program for the prevention of false alarms. Alarm companies and alarm users will be allowed to attend any false alarm prevention program for the purposes provided in this subtitle.
- B) Each person who attends the False Alarm Prevention Program will pay a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). The Alarm Administrator will collect the established fee either before or at the time of a person's attendance in the program.
- C) If an alarm company or alarm user completes the False Alarm Prevention Program, the Alarm Administrator will issue an attendance certificate to the person.

Frederick County Sheriff=s Office
Alarm System Registration

1-24-18 Reports

- A) Evidence of False Alarms - the computer aided dispatched (CAD) record will be prima facie evidence that a false alarm occurred.
- B) The Alarm Administrator will submit a monthly report to the Sheriff of Frederick County on the implementation and status of the program including statistical data. The Sheriff will annually report to the Frederick County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) statistical data pertaining to the program.
- C) The Alarm Administrator may request, at any time, copies of records maintained by an Alarm Company or individual alarm users. The alarm business will provide copies at no cost to the county.

1-24-19 Violations

- A) Any alarm company or alarm user who violates a provision of this subtitle is subject to a civil penalty of not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00).

1-24-20: Effective Dates

- A) Alarm Users and Alarm Companies must register before September 1, 2001.
- B) False Alarm Fines will take effect on January 1, 2002.
- C) In calculating cumulative fines, false alarms received before the effective date will not be counted.